



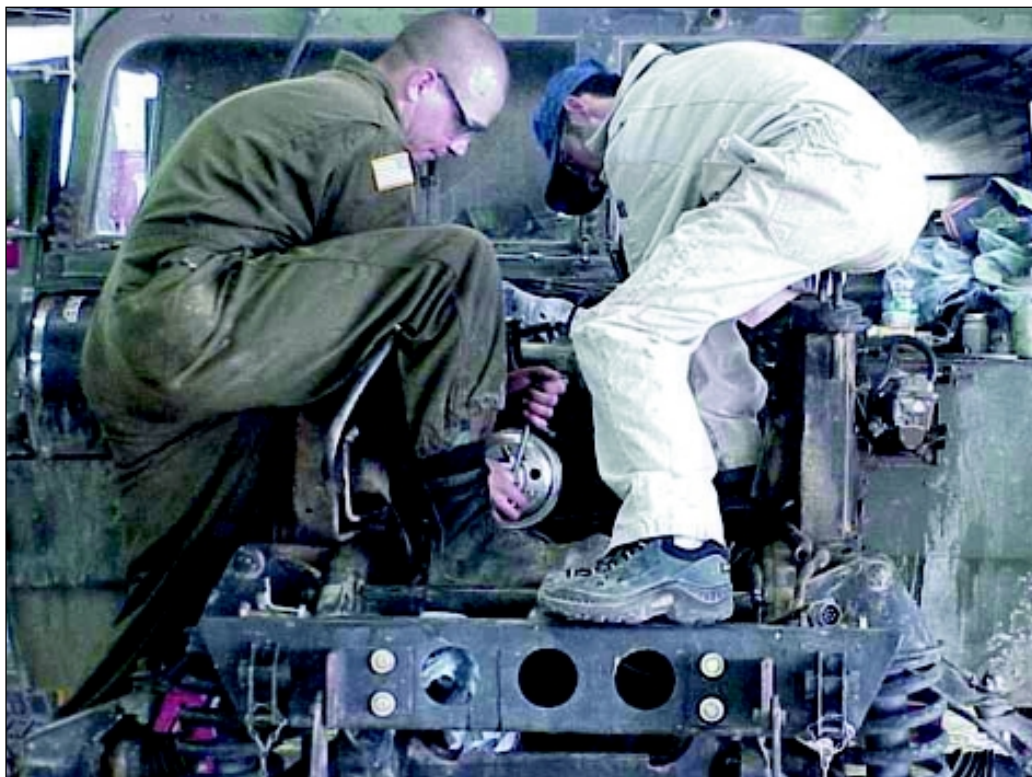
Task Force Falcon

Falcon Flier

Volume 4, Issue 9

Produced for the personnel of Task Force Falcon

April 15, 2001



Courtesy Photo

A Brown and Root contract worker and a soldier put the engine of a humvee back together after replacing some parts during maintenance.

Brown and Root provide essential services

*Story by Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO*

Evolving from the humble beginning of building roads in the oil fields of Texas, Brown and Root Services has become an important part of the daily operations of the armed forces around the world.

Brown and Root provides construction and logistical support services for the U.S. government not only in the Balkans but also in places like Rwanda, Saudi Arabia and the United States just to mention a few.

The B&R operation has been successful because of the unique working relationship that has developed over the years coexisting in a work environment with the military.

Ferizaj/Urosevac is the location of the headquarters for U.S. Kosovo Forces B&R

This issue is dedicated to our civilian work force within Task Force Falcon.

Stories are focused on civilian contributions that help sustain operations here in Kosovo.

facility.

"We are involved in projects from the planning stages of base camps to the completion of the mission. From the cradle to the grave," said Fred R. Conner, regional operations manager, B&R. "We have serviced 50,000 troops over a span of 10 years."

Brown and Root provides Title X support to Task Force Falcon. It does life support, base and information structure construction.

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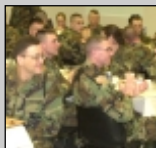
Civilians provide essential workforce

*Story by
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Puckett
Camp Bondsteel PAO*

From a distance John Kelso looks like a senior NCO or perhaps a field grade officer. The gray tinge in his mustache and hair that seems a little long for an officer appears a little peculiar. Only upon meeting Mr. Kelso would anyone realize that the Task Force Falcon Inspector General

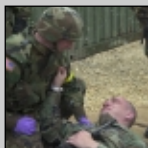
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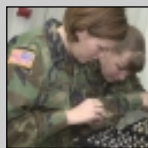


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www.tffalcon.hqusaareu.army.mil



Tune into AFN radio on FM 99.1

Missing the game because you are at work? Not near a television? Well, tune into FM 99.1 for your live sports entertainment! FM 99.1 is also AFN's source for news talk, such as Rush Limbaugh and car talk. So if you are tired of listening to the same old music and want to find out what is going on in the world, tune into FM 99.1 AFN radio.

WANTED

The Falcon Flier wants your stories -- award ceremonies, events, activities, or human interest news. All units from Camps Bondsteel, Able Sentry and Monteith are invited to submit information for publication. While we may not be able to run every story because of space limitations, we would like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact the Task Force Falcon Public Affairs Office with your ideas, news and comments at:
(DSN) 781-5200 or 782-7186
or e-mail us at falconci@bondsteel2.areu.army.mil.

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Task force celebrates Women's History Month

**Story and photo by Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Women in the military have gone farther than they had ever dreamt possible, said Marsha O'Doherty, speaker at a luncheon honoring Women's History Month at the Northtown dining facility on Camp Bondsteel.

Keeping in tune with the beat of today's progressing Army, the task force equal opportunity office not only uses this time to recognize this event but takes the opportunity a step further by inviting a speaker to share her experiences and knowledge with those open for a mind broadening experience.

"Being the most culturally diverse Army in the entire world, from that aspect alone, it's important that the Army recognize this event in honor of those women serving every day on this peacekeeping mission in Kosovo," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Mason, task force equal opportunity advisor.

Red Cross team leader O'Doherty is a wife and mother of three children, Teresa, 19, John, 16, and Robert, 12 years old. She is married to Lt. Col. David C. Doherty, Camp Zama, Japan.

"O'Doherty has been around the military for a long time," Mason said. "We chose her to be the speaker because she is able to provide her insight and knowledge on women's contributions not only in the military but the civilian sector as well."

During her presentation, O'Doherty spoke on the women's movement in the military and the contributions to society by individuals like Mother Teresa.

The role of women for the first 100 years of the military was very limited, O'Doherty said. Women were only allowed to serve dur-



Sgt. Melissa O. Parsons, PAC NCOIC, 527th MP Co., and Staff Sgt. Richard M. Young, operations NCO, 793rd MP Bn., look over a flyer distributed during the Women's History Month luncheon.

ing times of war. They weren't allowed to hold active status positions during peacetime.

When active during times of war, women were only able to hold service positions such as nurses, cooks and laundry workers.

"With a strong fight and the help of Congressional legislation, women were able to become full-time military personnel. Not only during times of war but they were able to maintain active status during peacetime status," O'Doherty said.

"Enough was enough. Women weren't going to sit idly by to be called upon during times of war anymore," O'Doherty said.

"Women realized that it was time for change."

Originating as International Women's Day on March 8, 1911, the push for the proper recognition of the great achievements by women throughout history evolved in 1987 into what is now known as Women's History Month.

"Women's History Month is a time where people get to broaden their education in areas concerning not only what women have done but what women are capable of doing," said Tondra R. Madison, Army Material Command noncommissioned officer, Logistic Support Element.



Photo by Sgt. James Montoya

Watching down range

Cpt. Brittan Walker, left, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Company A 'Enforcers,' 47th Forward Support Battalion advises his platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Markello Dotson, right, while Sgt. Peter Frish, 4th Bn., 27th FAR, center, waits to call in artillery rounds if necessary during a live fire exercise at Ramjane Range March 26.

Rock and Roll

Rock and Blues

Animal Planet

8 p.m.
April 20th

Southside Fitness Center

MWR presents "Animal Planet," a rock and roll/R&B band out of Buffalo, N.Y. This band has played on stages around the world and is renown for getting the crowd involved in the show. The band will be performing in the Southside Fitness Center April 20 at 8 p.m.

For more information concerning this performance or any other MWR events contact Danielle Crawford at 781-3112.

Civilians continued from Page 1...

is actually one of more than about 6,000 civilians who are providing support to soldiers in Multi-National Brigade (East).

The civilians serving here provide the full spectrum of support. The contributions of the approximately 100 Department of Defense, Army and Non-Appropriated Funds employees to the thousands of local national and stateside contractors sometimes go unseen, but military leaders credit them with making the task force successful.

"I can't say enough about how much our civilians mean to us," said Task Force Falcon Command Sgt. Maj. Sherman Fuller. "Their hard work takes a lot of pressure off the soldiers and allows us to focus on the mission outside of the base camps."

Although civilians have been part of U.S. peacekeeping operations for years, their impact is often overlooked, Fuller said. Task Force Falcon has emphasized that all soldiers, civilians or contractors are part of what makes the mission a success.

"We've worked hard to make sure our civilians know they are part of the team," Fuller said.

Part of that work was ensuring the civilian workforce was involved in decision making, had access to leaders and had venues to raise concerns, according to Maj. Peter Formica, TF Falcon adjutant.

In late Fall 2000, the task force organized a Civilian Advisory Forum to establish a formal feedback system, Formica said. TF Falcon does not have a full-time Civilian Personnel Office. Before the forum was established, civilians were having a hard time raising concerns and getting answers to their prob-

lems. The forum gives civilians an avenue to leadership here and also helps keep commanders aware of potential problems.

Another positive fix was assigning a full-time CPO representative to assist TF Falcon civilians. Although the representative is stationed in Hungary having a designated person to help makes a big difference, Formica said.

"Right now our goal is to try to increase the bi-monthly visits of the CPO rep," he said. "Weather, transportation, and the border have all made those trips difficult to get accomplished. We want to make bi-monthly the longest time between visits. They contribute a lot to this organization."

Evidence of that is all around Kosovo. The new Southtown Fitness Center, the MWR centers, dining facilities, firefighting services, automation support, logistics and transportation are among the most visible marks of civilian efforts, but members of Task Force Falcon staff like Safety Officer Fred Mitchell play key roles in the success of the mission here.

The job remains the same despite being deployed. However, TF Falcon civilians face the same issues that soldiers deal with every day.

"My biggest challenge is finding time for myself and learning to live with others in the small space you are given," said Mitchell.

With the impending transfer of authority, civilians like Mitchell bring experience and continuity to the major tasks of moving equipment, personnel and vehicles to and from Kosovo.

Kelso stressed that often civilians and soldiers can be interchangeable, but with some civilians spending more than a year in Kosovo — experience can really pay off.

"I served 23 years in the Army and I have been deployed to the Balkans longer than I ever deployed on active duty," Kelso said. "I think it's vital to have civilians in key positions like the Property Book Office, G-4, Safety, G-2 — they just add experience that takes time to get."

One area that Kelso's experience has paid off is wearing the uniform. Like task force soldiers, DoD and DA civilians also wear BDUs. For Nancy Ray, the task forces' education services director, wearing the uniform is an honor.

"I take a lot of pride, and so do a lot of us, in wearing the uniform," she said. "It means something to us. Most of us have never been in the Army and don't really know the right way to wear it though. The soldiers have been very positive in teaching us how to wear it the right way. Education is a two-way street, and we are learning right along with them."

Ray said the 35 civilian education specialists like professors, university teams and education center employees have benefited from being involved in Operation Joint Guardian. Although the 100 percent tuition assistance is a strong selling point for soldiers to take college classes, the personal contact pays off.

"We are getting a chance to see our soldiers do great things over here up close," she said. "Living and eating so close with the soldiers is a great opportunity for us — we never stop talking about education. We talk to soldiers all the time at the dining facilities, the gyms and other places and the next thing you know they are standing in the education center. We have a captive audience and I think we are making a difference."

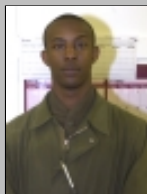
CHECK OUT THE FALCON FLIER ONLINE AT:

<http://www.tffalcon.hq.usareur.army.mil>

Task Force Falcon's Place on the Web

FALCON'S FORCE

How do you feel about working with civilians in this environment?



"Very enlightening because a lot of them are retired military, have different insights on situations concerning vehicle maintenance."
Pfc. Michael J. Grant, shop foreman, HHC, 2nd Bde.



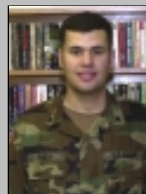
"It's a great experience working with the civilian population. We get excellent cooperation when operating in sector."
Master Sgt. Jose L. Berrios, team NCOIC, 404th CA Bn.



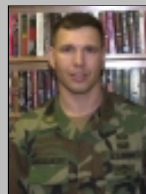
"I enjoy working with civilians in any environment. I find most civilians are prior military and understand the role of soldiers."
Sgt. 1st Class David A. Terry, team NCOIC, Co. D, 501st MI Bn.



"I feel that the civilians are trustworthy and do a very good job. Brown and Root is doing an outstanding job."
Spc. Torrey A. Wise, radar specialist, Btry. B, 1st Bn., 4th ADA Rgt.



"I enjoy working with the interpreters because they give you a little bit of insight on how their lives are on a daily basis."
Spc. Robert J. Ragan, fire support specialist, HHB, 4th Bn., 27th FAR.



"The Army today relies on the civilians for many of our functions. The dedication and hard work they provide has been outstanding."
Maj. Todd H. Guggisbery, plans officer, HHC, 10th Mtn. Div.

Brown and Root continued from Page 1...

"Brown and Root is contracted to meet mission objectives like living quarters, hospitals, dining facilities, power, water, waste management and hazardous waste removal," Conner said.

The contract between B&R and the government is a cost plus contract. Under this contract, B&R only charges the government what it pays for services rendered plus a negotiated fee based on a performance evaluation.

The contract issued through the U.S. Army Europe Corps of Engineers is titled the Balkans Support Contract.

"I want to succeed and get a good evaluation. That is how Brown and Root makes its profits," said David M. Capouya, regional project manager, B&R.

Brown and Root covers a large area of functional services that support TFF. By using B&R, it eliminates the need to have multiple contractors.

"If the Army wanted to bring an engineer unit here to perform some of the tasks we do, they would have to bring in an engineer battalion

to do what we're doing," Capouya said.

Capouya has the flexibility to staff his operation according to what is required to meet the demand of the mission. If there is no demand, he can reduce his staff.

"If the number of soldiers supported by Brown and Root goes down and TFF verifies this decrease, B&R has the capability to reduce its work force keeping overhead cost to a minimum," Capouya said.

In the event subcontractors are needed, B&R hires and manages those contractors.

Brown and Root currently services 72 remote sites in Multinational Brigade (East), including Mt. Preslap in Macedonia. Forty of the sites contain a squad-size element or larger.

Brown and Root's Kosovo Force operation employs 5,000 workers. 500 of these workers are deployed from the United States.

The U.S. KFOR civil affairs unit played an instrumental in the coordination of hiring the local national workforce.

Since B&R operates in a government-owned facility, it follows the same force protection requirements as US troops.

"We're civilian augmentees of Task Force

Falcon. We do jobs that would otherwise be done by soldiers, minus the weapons. We are soldiers in blue-jeans," said Conner.

In the event of a heightened threat condition, military police assigned to the facility would have increased force protection responsibilities for the B&R compound.

If there is an immediate threat, the Greek Mechanized Battalion in Ferizaj/Urosevac has a quick reaction force that is responsible for the personnel and property in the compound, Conner said.

Like everything revolving around the KFOR mission, B&R has an internal support structure that is dependant on each working part.

"Here at Brown and Root, we are faced with constantly changing challenges everyday. No matter how trivial the task, we take the extra time necessary to make sure that everything in the work environment is safe," said Dennis L. Mills, welder foreman, B&R. "When it comes to working with soldiers or local nationals, we all work as a group and haven't let one another down yet."

TRW keeps communications flowing

**Story and by
Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Thompson Ramo Wooldridge Linguistic Services works with Task Force Falcon soldiers day in and day out to successfully meet mission objectives to provide a safe and secure environment for all Kosovo people by providing an invaluable service.

Thompson Ramo Wooldridge is responsible for providing linguist for TFF from the squad level to the commanding general.

"When you are able to communicate with the local nationals, you get a better knowledge of what is going on in the environment you are operating in," said Marvin E. Erickson, site manager, TFF Area of Operations, Balkans Linguist Program. "Being a Vietnam Veteran, I firmly believe if we had this capability, there would be less people on the Vietnam Memorial Wall."

Soldiers can communicate with local nationals to find out information pertaining to mission objectives through the services provided by TRW. An example of such information can lead to finding locations of mines and weapons caches, Erickson said.

"So much good is done by the work of interpreters on a day-to-day basis, it would be impossible to keep track of all their contributions," Erickson said.

Last year during a riot in Multinational Brigade (East), a local national interpreter disregarded all reservations about his

personal safety and ran to aid a fallen soldier to pull him back to what he deemed a safe position. Upon reaching the position, the interpreter covered the soldier with his own body as the enraged crowd around them was throwing rocks, Erickson added.

"Working with soldiers is a lot easier to deal with than people in the workplace in the United States," said Seltia Sehoul-Emini, linguist, TRW, from Queens, New York. "Soldiers are more professional. They have a very important job to do and are very focused in completing appointed tasks. Tasks, which not only involves the lives of others but their own life as well."

The TRW staff is made up of 570 interpreters. Approximately 100 of the interpreters are civilian contractors deployed from the United States. The remaining are local nationals.

Civilian contractors from the states are contracted for one year of service. They have the option of extending indefinitely.

Local nationals are hired from Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania. They are tested for English comprehension and their own language as well.

Based on personal language aptitude, interpreters are placed accordingly.

For instance, those who possess an engineering background are placed with engineer units and medical backgrounds with medical units, Erickson said.

"After being hired, interpreters are prepped to the best of our ability to prepare them for living in a military environment,"



Seltia Sehoul-Emini and Ilir Zenuni, left, TRW linguists help translate a conversation between soldiers and a local national worker outside of the TMP.

Erickson said.

Like TFF soldiers, civilian contractors are required to deploy without family members.

"I really identify with the soldiers when it comes to being deployed away from family members," Sehoul-Emini said. "Everyday that goes by, I miss my 12-year-old daughter, Liriana, and 10-year-old son, Bekim, more and more. They are my reason for being."

Local nationals working for TRW not only help TFF but also gain the chance to achieve personal growth through their daily work experiences.

"Being from Macedonia, I have grown-up seeing first-hand

all the things that need to change. This is the best opportunity to be apart of those that are seeking change," said Ilir Zenuni, local-national linguist, TRW.

On a daily basis linguists interact with political leaders, generals and different armies from around the world, Erickson said.

"They will be far ahead of their peers when it comes to understanding the international arena. Twenty or 30 years from now, these individuals will be the leaders of tomorrow," Erickson said.

"I would prefer 50 years of political talks than suffer the loss of one human life," Zenuni added.

Camp Bondsteel's CI team wants your help to keep our soldiers safe

Report any incidents concerning the following:

- Suspected acts of espionage, unauthorized attempts to gain access to facilities, equipment, computers or information.
- Contacts with people suspected to be with foreign military intelligence, security, law enforcement or terrorist groups.
- Questioning, interrogation or coercion by any of the above.
- Unauthorized disclosure or loss of classified or sensitive material.
- Planned or potential terrorist activity or sabotage.



Hospital staff rush a patient into the emergency room from a medevac helicopter to be treated for a leg injury during the mass casualty exercise April 1. The exercise was the final part of the transfer of authority to TF MedFalcon 4.

Hospital hosts mass casualty exercise

**Story and photo by
Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Task Force Medical Falcon 4 proved it is ready to handle mission objectives April 1, demonstrating team proficiency during a four-hour mass casualty exercise involving every aspect of hospital operations.

Mass casualty exercises are done to ensure soldiers are comfortable exercising standard operation procedures and gain a greater familiarity of the theater environment.

"Because of the large number

of patients that you get over a short period of time during a mass casualty situation, it is of great importance the entire hospital actively participates in the exercise," said Col. Benjamin J. Kulper, internal medicine physician, TF MedFalcon 3. "Exercises such as this are extremely useful. It allows the soldier medic to realize that the standard operating procedures do work. It assures them that their knowledge and experience is more than adequate for the task."

An exploding vehicle at one of Kosovo Force's vehicle checkpoints was the staged scenario put into play for the TF MedFalcon

mass casualty exercise.

"The foremost reason this scenario was chosen was it involved both KFOR soldiers of various nationalities and local nationals. By doing this, it stressed not only the clinical aspect of TF MedFalcon but the administrative aspects as well," Kulper said.

Being part of this international peacekeeping mission, TF MedFalcon soldiers' duties involve taking care of not only KFOR soldiers but local nationals too.

The administrative responsibilities of the hospital involve providing translator services and the regulation of civilian patients

into the local national health care system.

TF MedFalcon 4 received a weeklong right-seat ride from the outgoing medical unit to give the incoming unit a solid foundation regarding how things work.

"TF MedFalcon 4 responded well," said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Parrish, emergency medical team noncommissioned officer in charge, TF MedFalcon 3. "They were like sponges when it came to all the information we put on their plate."

"The right-seat ride was quick and efficient and we are looking forward to getting started on our own," said Sgt. 1st Class Keith E. Fletcher, ward master, TF MedFalcon 4.

Wearing seatbelts is a habit everyone should get into

**Story by Col. Michael Riley
USASC Director of Operations**

A soldier was riding in the front seat of a car being driven by a friend. As they drove through an intersection, an oncoming car turned left in front of them. The cars collided head on. The soldier was killed when his head went through the windshield. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

A soldier was driving north on a two-

lane road. His wife was riding beside him on the front seat. As they topped a hill, a south-bound car crossed the double, no-passing lines and collided with their car. The wife was killed instantly. She was not wearing a seatbelt.

Neither of these drivers was at fault, but both were seriously injured and their front-seat passengers were killed in head-on collisions. Seatbelts could have saved their lives.

Drivers must get into the habit of wearing seatbelts every time they get in a car. Make buckling up a habit—a habit you can live with.



Task force CSM holds NCOPD with Greek soldiers

**Story by Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

The Task Force Falcon Command Sergeant Major visited the 501st Greek Mechanized Battalion Base Camp in Ferazi/Urosevac to share information regarding the makeup of the U.S. Army enlisted soldier recently.

To promote a better working relationship, a presentation was shown to Greek soldiers along with a question and answer session.

"The key to success is working together to make a safe, secure environment for the people in Kosovo," said Command Sgt. Maj. Sherman Fuller, TFF. "In order to do that, we need to understand each others' culture and how one another does business."

Fuller addressed a platoon of soldiers explaining how soldiers are built up through the noncommissioned officers corps.

The presentation focused on schooling, promotions and everything regarding the noncommissioned officer.

"We like the way the U.S. Army cooperates between the ranks of the NCOs and officers," said 1st Lieutenant Bill Yaglis, operations assistant, 501st Greek Mech. Bn. "Maybe our NCOs can learn from your army and work together like you to attain positive results."

In the five months Yaglis has been stationed at the Greek base camp, he feels the relationship between the Greek Army and the U.S. Army is perfect.

"In fact there are times when we find ourselves helping one another out," Yaglis said. "This

give and take relationship between our armies always turns out with great results."

With efforts to share knowledge concerning the roles of the NCOs in the U.S. Army in relation to the Greek Army NCOs, this will increase productivity in future operations when we work together, said Master Sgt. Arsenio Rivera, operations sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade.

"I think it is very important that the U.S. Army work together with allied forces in order to build a team," Fuller said.



Spc. Ruth A. Willard, supply specialist, 501st MI Bn., and Spc. Michelle Roemer, training NCO, Co. B, 47th FSB, look through the ring selection at the new gold shop open inside of the beauty parlor right after the grand opening ceremony April 6.

Gold shop opens on Camp Bondsteel

**Story and photo by Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service sponsored the grand opening of Rubin's Jewelry Store on Task Force Falcon's Camp Bondsteel, April 7.

Since soldiers aren't authorized to shop on the economy while deployed in Kosovo, AAFES has met the request of soldiers deployed here to have a jewelry shop brought on to Camp Bondsteel, affording them the opportunity to purchase gold jewelry at very reasonable prices rather

than shop on-line. This allows the customer to see their products first-hand.

"By bringing a jewelry store on base, AAFES makes sure soldiers get the quality product they deserve. They are spending their hard earned money," said Queen E. Trotter, service business manager, AAFES.

After finding out that a gold shop was finally coming to CBS, many of the soldiers were concerned whether the gold is real and of good quality, Trotter said.

To ensure the gold quality, AAFES sends the gold to a professional goldsmith in England to ensure it is 14k gold.

Gold purchased at Rubin's Jewelry Store is sold by the gram. Prices of gold range from

\$6.25 to \$1,000.

Rubin's sells two types of gold. The types are hollow and solid. Being heavier, solid gold costs a little more, Trotter said.

Rubin's Jewelry Store specializes in cubic zirconium, gold earrings, rings, chains and bracelets.

Rubin's Jewelry Store is a "mom and pop" shop that has been in business for 36 years.

"AAFES has done a great thing for the soldiers here on Camp Bondsteel. It allows us to buy and wear jewelry that not only looks good but complements our uniform," said Michelle Roemer, training noncommissioned officer, 47th Forward Support Battalion.

Engineers conduct mine clearing live fire exercise at Ramjane Range

Story and photos by Pfc. Duane Brown
Camp Bondsteel PAO

Teamwork was the name of the game at Ramjane Range March 31, as soldiers assigned to the 40th Engineer Battalion practiced clearing mine fields.

The Mine Clearing Line Charge training was done to give soldiers confidence in their ability to clear a minefield in a real-world situation.

"There are still a lot of mine fields in the Kosovo region. This fact alone weighs heavily toward the significance of the mine clearing operation to the Task Force Falcon operation," said Staff Sgt. Forrest R. McCann, 40th Eng. Bn.

The line charge used for a mine clearing operation contains 1,850 pounds of C-4 explosives in a line the length of 100 meters.

After detonation, the charge clears a straight lane through the minefield 100 meters long and five meters wide, according to McCann.

"It puts out a loud boom that can be heard by all the villages surrounding the range area,"

said McCann.

With civil affairs assistance, the surrounding villages are notified of the MICLIC training and given access to proper channels of communications in the event of property damage, said Capt. Michael Parsons, Bn. Adjutant, 40th Eng. Bn.

When the line-charge is detonated, the mines are set off by the concussion of the explosion or uprooted and thrown to the side, McCann said. In the event the mine doesn't go off and is thrown to the side, it's proper procedure to leave it and drive on with the mission.

"Preparation for this exercise involves ensuring that each soldier not only knows his specific job during the breach operation but he be well versed on all the jobs of the soldiers within the team," McCann said. "This type of comprehensive training is mission essential in the unfortunate event a soldier goes down."

No matter if a soldier is a private or a sergeant, all possess the skills to complete the mission on their own, McCann said.

"This type of high-speed training is vital to Kosovo Force operations. We have to be totally proficient at all we do because there won't always be a second chance," said Spc.

John M. Pushcar, combat engineer, Company C, 40th Eng. Bn.



Sgt. Alexis Comacho, combat engineer, 40th Eng. Bn., and his soldiers hook the C-4 up to a rocket.



Engineers launch a Mine Clearing Line Charge into an open field.



NCOs from the 40th Eng. Bn., prepare a line of C-4 to be hooked up to a rocket.



ge into an open field at Ramjane Range.



of C-4 to be hooked up to a rocket.



Soldiers work together to secure and unload all of the C-4.



Laurie Klevan, avionics tech., looks at an AH-64 Apache, with Pfc. Susan Lee, crew chief, and CWO3 Joseph Shorts, pilot, 1st Bn., 501st Avn. Rgt. Courtesy photo

AMC provides support to task force

**Story by Sgt. James Montoya
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Technically and logistically, Multinational Brigade (East) runs smoothly with the help of logistic assistance representatives in the Army Material Command Logistics Support Element in Kosovo.

The LARs who work in the AMC LSE-K support all U.S. units deployed in MNB (E) by providing the technical expertise and contact information needed to fill any readiness need.

"Logistics assistance representatives are the backbone of the LSE-K and bring a wealth of maintenance expertise to the task force," said Lt. Col. Frank E. Shields, Jr., commander, AMC LSE-K.

"Let's say a helicopter gets grounded for a component," said Van Westmoreland, aviation missile command LAR. "We do a lot of calling to the states to get that part moving over here."

The LARs deployed in Kosovo are from three of AMC's major subordinate commands: Aviation and Missile Command, Communica-

tions Electronics Command, and Tank-automotive and Armaments Command.

"We provide the necessary technical and logistical support to our customers to ensure their systems remain fully mission-capable," said Laurie Klevan, CECOM avionics master technician.

The AMC LSE-K also monitors and analyzes the readiness trends or problems to take corrective actions which optimizes the readiness rates for MNB (E).

"We also conduct maintenance and diagnostic procedures training, holding formal and informal classroom discussions utilizing the hands-on approach," said Jack Killion, AMCOM LAR.

In addition to the LARs focusing on the aircraft, TACOM LAR Ned Rowley works with the hundreds of ground vehicles in the task force.

"With so many items to be concerned with, I have to be able to quickly focus my efforts on the most pressing readiness issues that affect the most customers," Rowley said.

Along with the LARs, the AMC LSE-K has contract field services representatives who


focus on a single system or sub-system while LARs generally focus on entire categories of systems.

One of the systems that gets CFSRs support is the Apache's target acquisition designation sight/pilot night vision sensor.

"I advise the Army on troubleshooting, working hand-in-hand with the armament personnel from 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment. I work with the armament soldiers on the TADS/PNVS to isolate the faulty part and ensure the proper repair of broken parts," said John Rubas, TADS/PNVS, CFSR.

To round out the full array of support to the task force, the AMC LSE-K operates the Army oil analysis program and calibration labs along with the Tobyhanna Army Depot's Forward Repair Activity, which performs maintenance on general purpose personal computers, laptops and unit level logistic system computers.

"AMC LSE-K is the integrator for a wide diversity of AMC field support being provided to a large and diverse customer base," Shields said. "We are the AMC's single face to the field and bring its full might to bear in support of the MNB (E) mission."




Looking for something to do? Want to get in shape?

Try Kickboxing Aerobics or Martial Arts Classes

Kickboxing Aerobics are held in the Southside fitness center every Monday and Wednesday from 8-9 p.m.

Martial Arts Classes are held in the Southside Fitness Center every Tuesday and Thursday from 7-8 p.m.



Legal Corner

Can you change your domicile?

**Story by Capt. Kristof Gawin
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Many soldiers come to the Legal Assistance Office asking about changing their domicile. They have heard that with a stroke of the pen at Finance, they can change their domicile to a state without state income tax. This is not quite true.

Will I have to pay state income taxes on my pay while I am on active duty? If your home state taxes military pay, you will have to pay those state taxes. If you get assigned to another state, you will still legally be a "domiciliary" of your home state. The state to which the military assigns you cannot tax your military pay. If you moonlight, the state can tax that pay - just your military pay is exempt.

Under federal law (the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act), only the service member's state of domicile can tax military pay. Therefore, those soldiers who reside in one of the tax-free states when coming on active duty generally go their entire careers without paying state tax on their military pay. Those of us less fortunate should understand how domicile works and how it possibly can be changed to benefit your particular situation.

Home of record and domicile are normally the same place when a soldier first joins the military. Home of record is the place where the soldier comes on active duty. Home of record is used, in part, to determine the transportation entitlements upon separation from service. Domicile is a

person's permanent home, the place to which he or she intends to return to permanently live, and the place where he or she pays state taxes if required.

A change of domicile has consequences in three major areas: (1) it puts one under the tax laws of the new state (this shift affects only military pay because other income may be taxed by both the state of domicile and the state where that income is earned); (2) it affects the public benefits derived as a domiciliary of each state (e.g. welfare assistance, in-state tuition for public education, and most other state services that depend on a person's status as a domiciliary of that state); and (3) it subjects that person to the civil laws and jurisdiction of the new state and generally severs legal ties to the old state.

Since domiciles are not formally registered anywhere, you must take active steps to change your domicile. You should also be prepared to provide the old state with convincing evidence that the change was legitimate for tax purposes (i.e. not just to avoid those taxes) and to show the new state the same evidence in order to receive its public benefits like in-state tuition.

The key factors for a legitimate change of domicile are: (1) physical presence in the new state; (2) an intention to abandon the old domicile; and (3) a simultaneous intent to remain in the new state (or return when only temporarily absent). Consequently, you should physically reside in the new state for a long period of time while forming the intent to permanently reside there and make that state home. Unfortunately, AIT in

Ft. Hood is probably not sufficient physical presence or intent to justify a change. Similarly, a person now stationed in Germany pursuant to military orders would have difficulty proving a change of domicile because there is no simultaneous presence in a state.

Proof of intent includes: acquiring real property, registering to vote, obtaining a driver's license, registering vehicles or vessels, opening bank accounts, paying taxes, and notifying Finance of the change of domicile for tax purposes. This list is not inclusive as each state has its own requirements. The more indicators of permanent legal residence you established, in accordance with an intent to return to a particular state, upon separation from the army, the easier it will be to convince interested state authorities of the bona fide nature of your claim of residency in a particular state.

For military members and their families, the best time to change domicile is well before the end of a lengthy tour in the new state. If the soldier truly considers the new state home and has the required intent to permanently reside there, he should undertake the actions listed above to indicate his intent to change his domicile. There are a number of different state tax systems which can benefit the soldier (e.g. some states only tax income earned within the state or while stationed in the state), so it is worth asking whether you can benefit from the laws of the particular state. Family members must fulfill all these requirements individually if they wish to change their domicile because their domicile does not

automatically change when the soldier changes domicile.

The laws of the soldier's domicile govern the requirement for soldiers to pay state income taxes on their military pay. Domicile is determined by a soldier's physical contact, either past or present, with a state and the soldier's intent to make that state his or her permanent home. The laws of some states may excuse soldiers from the requirement to have state income taxes withheld from their military pay. To stop withholding, soldiers must file the DD Form 2058-1, or an approved state form. Once a soldier certifies his or her exemption from state income tax withholding, that soldier has no requirement to recertify. The soldier would only file DD Forms 2058 and 2058-1 again, if that soldier changes his or her domicile.

The DD 2058, State of Legal Residence Certificate, is designed to obtain information with respect to a soldier's domicile for the purposes of determining the state for which taxes are to be withheld from the soldier's wages. There is no requirement to file this form unless the soldier has changed his or her domicile since entering service. The DD 2058-1, State Income Tax Exemption Test, enables soldiers to terminate withholding of state income taxes when the laws of the soldier's domicile do not require withholding. The form provides explanatory material designed to help the soldier determine if he or she qualifies to terminate withholding. It is necessary for the soldier, however, to look to the laws of his or her domicile to determine if withholding is required.

When touching is considered taboo

**Story by
Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Mason
Equal Opportunity Advisor**

Physical contact often is thought of as harmless, normal and necessary in all our relationships. A handshake, a pat on the back, and sometimes even an affectionate hug are common physical expressions we use to communicate with one another. These can foster camaraderie and cohesion. But when the expressions are unwarranted and unwanted, or when recipients describe them as pinching, patting, grabbing, stroking, rubbing or caressing, they cease being acceptable gestures and become harassment.

Consider that in a 1992 survey of soldiers, more than 50 percent of those responding reported incidents of teasing, jokes or sexual questions. About 50 percent of women and 38 percent of men reported incidents of touching, leaning over, cornering, pinching or "brushing against" of a sexual nature. If you review EO literature defining the substance and scope of sexual harassment, you'll get a good picture of what I am talking about. One rule that helps avoid any question of harassment is to treat men and women the same.

The message is simple and straightforward: Train your soldiers. Make sure they understand what constitutes sexual harassment. Ask yourself the following questions: Is the conduct suggestive or blatantly sexual? Would the conduct be unwelcome by any reasonable person subjected to it? Does the conduct create a hostile or offensive work environment? Have sexual favors been demanded, requested, or suggested - especially as a condition of employment or career and job success? If you answer "yes" to one or more of the questions above, you probably are dealing with a case of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment takes many forms. It can be verbal, non-verbal or even physical.

If you face an issue of harassment, stand up to it. Don't let these lame excuses delay or deter you. "Quick, direct and decisive action will save more careers than it will end."

As mature adults, we're responsible for our actions in today's Army. Yes, some may find it difficult to discuss sexual harassment. But we must discuss it, because open discussion and interaction help us deal with it. The truth is, ill feelings, mistrust and divisiveness fester until harassment stops. Like most problems, sexual harassment doesn't get better with age.

As you and your colleagues develop appropriate behavior patterns, attitudes will change

as well. Remember consideration of others training or small group discussions are the most effective tool to train our soldiers on how to prevent sexual harassment. Have the groups include soldiers or civilians of both genders. Use up to date and realistic vignettes that fit your unit to prompt discussion of various facets of the problems. Don't be afraid to get involved. If you lack the answer to a tough question, or feel unable to deal with a particularly complex situation, seek help from your chain of command and your unit EO adviser.

Impress upon your soldiers the negative effect that sexual harassment has on personal performance and unit cohesion. Instruct them in proper techniques to use if he or she becomes a victim. Ensure they know how the complaint system works, and whom they can go to for help. Train your subordinate leaders in appropriate procedures for processing and resolving complaints. Such training may never result in total elimination of the problem - anymore than regular ethics training can prevent all unethical conduct. But it can and does give you a head start on coping with one of society's more vexatious problems. Solving the problem of sexual harassment remains a team task to be headed by enlightened, committed leaders and driven by common sense.

USAREUR Chorus visits Bondsteel

**Story and photo by
Sgt. Thorin Sprandel
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Camp Bondsteel soldiers escaped their busy routines for a couple hours to enjoy the upbeat song and dance of the United States Army Europe Chorus and Band at the Camp Bondsteel Theater March 30.

The 24-member musical group from Heidelberg, Germany, also put on shows for soldiers at Camp Monteith and Camp Able Sentry. The following day, the chorus was scheduled to visit troops in Vitina, a more remote locale with fewer opportunities for entertainment.

While their primary mission is to travel and entertain other soldiers, the musicians of the band and chorus carry weapons and ammunition like any other soldier in Kosovo.

"We're soldiers first," said Sgt. Daniel Moyer, the band's drummer.

"But when we perform, we trade our battle rattle for spit-shined boots and black knit shirts and take the stage," he added.

In addition to troop support and morale, the chorus also promotes international relations and goodwill by performing for civilian audiences in Germany and towns like Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, said Master Sgt. Wendy Thompson, non-commissioned officer in charge of the group.

"Everyone knows and likes American pop music," said Thompson, who's been to the Balkans five times with the chorus.

"I was promised a good show," said Spc. George Ayala, who has friends in the chorus. "It's harder than it looks, to stand up there and perform," he said.

"Performing with the USAREUR chorus has been the best experience of my life," said Sgt. Joel Tinsley, chorus member.

"It's great to be able to go out in sector and entertain troops we maybe don't have as much access to entertainment," said Tinsley, a two-year veteran of the chorus.

"It's tremendously gratifying at this point in my career to be able to travel with the chorus and also give something back to the Army."



Two members of the USAREUR Chorus, Heidelberg, Germany, sing 'American Bandstand' during the group's performance for troops at the Camp Bondsteel Theater March 30.

MNB (E) Peacekeeper Games

A two-day sporting event followed by a BBQ, awards ceremony, free T-shirts, rock and roll band (Animal Planet) and Karaoke April 21-22.

Opening ceremonies kickoff at 8 a.m., April 21, at the Southside Recreation Center.

Sign up by Wednesday April 18 at Southside Recreation Center. Contact Mr. Smith or Glen McMurtry for specifics. Limit to the first 16 teams.

AFN Radio

AFN Radio can be heard on
88.0 FM.

**Special Show hours
include:**

Balkans Morning Show

6 a.m.-9 a.m.

Country Round-Up

9 a.m.-11 a.m.

80's Lunch

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Today's Alternative

3 p.m.-6 p.m.

Saturdays:

Balkans Saturday Show

8 a.m.-10 a.m.

Solid Gold Show

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Request lines are open at
762-5556**

Movies April Movie Schedule Camp Bondsteel theater

Apr. 16	1930 What Women Want 2130 Almost Famous	Apr. 24	1930 Art of War 2130 Romeo Must Die
Apr. 17	1930 The Replacements 2130 Space Cowboys	Apr. 25	1930 Sugar and Spice 2130 Snatch
Apr. 18	1930 The Pledge 2130 Casaway	Apr. 26	1930 All Pretty Horses 2130 Unbreakable
Apr. 19	1930 Coyote Ugly 2130 Patriot	Apr. 27	1930 Bait 2130 Bring It On
Apr. 20	1930 Bless the Child 2130 Me, Myself & Irene	Apr. 28	1930 Valentine 2130 Anti Trust
Apr. 21	1930 Snatch 2130 Sugar and Spice	Apr. 29	1930 Head Over Heals 2130 Valentine
Apr. 22	1930 Save the Last Dance 2130 Ladies Man	Apr. 30	1930 Almost Famous 2130 6th Day
Apr. 23	1930 Bounce 2130 13 Days		

Chaplains' Corner

Overjoyed by the unexpected

**Story by
Chaplain (CPT)
Kenneth Sorenson
1st Bn., 35th Amr. Rgt.**

As we get closer to redeployment the anticipation of seeing our loved ones continues to magnify. Mary and the disciples of Jesus Christ also had a certain expectation as they traveled to the tomb Easter morning. They wanted to pay respects to their Lord and grieve in the presence of His body, but imagine the confusion and then joy when finding the tomb empty and their savior risen.

Three people with three very different reasons for going to the burial site, and then three very overjoyed people depart from the site to share the good news with others. Mary came with ointment to pour on the body to help preserve what remained of her close friend, someone who genuinely loved her. John came running to the tomb as one whom Jesus loved and at the cross his heart was burdened down with the experience of losing a close friend. Peter

ran to the grave with anxiety for the night of the betrayal of his Savior and Lord, Peter had denied three times that he knew Jesus. Each of these people carried a burden and each of their burdens was lifted as they left the tomb that eventful first Resurrection morning.

Mary, like many of us, experienced Christ's love, but was unsure what to do with the fact that her Savior willingly died. Her view of Jesus was focused on Jesus caring for her in the here and now. When He died on the cross, where was she to go for comfort when she experienced deep hurt? Who could blame her for desiring the Lord's presence, especially since He had loved her unconditionally? Jesus gets Mary's attention outside the tomb that special morning by mentioning her name. What an unspeakable joy to hear the voice of a loved one, especially a loved one, you were convinced you'd never see again. She was overjoyed by the unexpected.

John was thrilled by the race to the tomb with Peter, but had little expectation of the miracu-

lous. After all the miracles the disciples experience and even with the intimacy of the relationship of John with Jesus, he feared to allow his heart to resonate with the possibility that His Lord could return to life. John was willing to carry out the tasks the Lord left him with, caring for the Lord's mother Mary. The wild morning when he raced past Peter to the tomb, what should he find but that the grave clothes were neatly folded and the lover of his soul raised as He had told his disciples. God has a way of calling us beyond our safe levels of desire, to a higher level where we dare to desire what God has for us. His life was forever changed as he received more than he expected when the tomb was found empty.

Peter had denied the Lord three times, so as excited as he was about getting to the grave, he obviously had some fear as he was running along with John. Like each of us he wanted to be reconciled with God, but his image of how he thought God would react slowed him down as he ran for the tomb that Resurrection morning. The fear of what was going to hear



from the Lord. The Lord surprised Peter days later with the request that Peter care for the sheep under his care by feeding them. The scene at the tomb days later resulted in joy to overflowing as Jesus reinstated him as a shepherd of the sheep.

Something happening unexpectedly doesn't have to result in anxiety, fear, and embarrassment. As Mary, John, and Peter discovered that first Easter morning, the stone rolled aside and Jesus having risen from the dead, resulted in joy to overflowing.

KFOR Worship Schedule

Camp Bondsteel

Roman Catholic

Sun 0730 South Chapel
Sun 1200 Mass - Peacekeepers Chapel
Sun 1900 Mass - Peacekeepers Chapel
Mon 1130 Mass - Peacekeepers Chapel
Tue 1930 Mass - Peacekeepers Chapel
Tue 2000 RCIA - Peacekeepers Chapel
Wed 1130 Mass - South Chapel
Wed 1900 Bible Study - South Chapel
Wed 1930 Bible Study - Peacekeepers Chapel
Thu 1930 Mass/School of Prayer - South Chapel
Fri 1130 Mass - Peacekeepers Chapel
Sat 1700 Mass - South Chapel

Protestant

Sun 0900 Service - South Chapel
Sun 0930 Service - Peacekeepers Chapel

Gospel

Sun 1200 Service - South Chapel
Sun 1600 Service - Peacekeepers Chapel
Thu 1800 Prayer - Peacekeepers Chapel
Fri 1900 Joy Night - Peacekeepers Chapel
Sat 2000 Gospel Choir Practice - Peacekeepers Chapel

Islam

Fri 1200 Prayer - South Chapel

Latter Day Saint

Sun 1600 Service - South Chapel
Sun 1700 Sunday School
Mon 1800 Family Home Evening

Jewish

Fri 2000 Service - South Chapel

Other

Sat 1100 Adventist Service - South Chapel
Sun 1900 Praise and Worship - South Chapel

Camp Monteith

SUNDAY

0830 LDS Service
1000 Protestant Service
1115 Bible Study
1300 Gospel Service
1600 AA Meeting
1900 Catholic Mass
2000 Contemporary Service

TUESDAY

1900 New Believers Class

WEDNESDAY

1900 Catholic Mass/Inquiry Class

THURSDAY

0800 Catholic Mass
1900 Promise Keepers Bible Study

FRIDAY

1900 Praise and Worship Night

SATURDAY

1800 Gospel Choir Practice
2000 Movie Night

Camp Able Sentry

Sunday

0130 Protestant Service
1300 Spanish Mass
1600 LDS Service
1900 Gospel Service

Tuesday

1900 Gospel Bible Study

Wednesday

2000 Mid-Week Bible Study

Thursday

1900 Prayer Meeting

Friday

1900 Gospel Hour

Saturday

1730 Catholic Mass
1900 Choir Rehearsal

JCC provides a better living for people and soldiers

**Story and photos by
Sgt. James Montoya
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Every month the Joint Contracting Center processes roughly 200 contracts, spending approximately \$750,000 on humanitarian affairs contracts, such as constructing buildings, medical facilities, schools, putting electrical wiring in place, digging wells, and paying for firetrucks and sanitation trucks in Kosovo.

The contracting officers at the JCC keep the contracts, customers, contractors and money in order while working in an office with a mixture of Army, Marine and Air Force personnel.

"What I like best about my job is getting the best deal for our customers," Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Watts, contracting officer, JCC. "When I do that the customer can take the savings and use it elsewhere."

The JCC also buys anything that cannot be acquired through the Army supply system and deals with all contracting requirements other than Brown and Root. The JCC also buys for the Ukrainian contingent and the United Arab Emirates, while giving local national vendors 60 percent of the JCC business.

Back in February, Capt. Jon

Hawkins, deputy chief of contracting, JCC, worked on a project to have an Albanian contractor build an ambulatory in a Serbian village.

"I told them if they can work together while we're here, then they can work together while we're gone," Hawkins said.

Staff Sgt. Venus Griffin, contracting officer, enjoys being able to see the effects of her work on locals.

"One of my projects worked to put water lines inside of a school," Griffin said. "The school never had water capabilities to wash their hands or drink out of water fountains. It was good to see that school get water."

Communicating with the local vendors would not be possible without the JCC translator, Ilir Ibraimi.

"I'm like the middle man between the contracting officer and the contractor or local vendor," Ibraimi said.

Marine Staff Sgt. Rodolfo Bellota, contracting officer, says the experience is an eye-opener in this peacekeeping effort.

"To come to an understanding in the office, all of us have to work as one," Bellota said.

"Our four contracting officers are extremely professional and well qualified," said Air Force Cpt. Chris Williams, chief, JCC, Camp Bondsteel.



Shaban Sylja, a Kosovo Albanian, welds the gate on the fence that Capt. Jon Hawkins, JCC, contracted to have built. Hawkins was able to see the project from its beginning to the completion.

USIP workshop helps problem solving skills

**Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Pintagro
Camp Monteith PAO**

Facilitators from the U.S. Institute of Peace, eight exceedingly busy translators and some 33 Serb, ethnic Albanian and Turkish civic leaders converged on the Task Force 2-6 Infantry conference room on Camp Monteith April 7 morning to help meet "the challenges of reconstruction in a multi-ethnic society."

Second Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, personnel organized and staffed a four-day USIP professional development workshop dedicated to multi-ethnic problem solving in the municipality of Gjiilan/Gnjilane.

Workshop facilitators aim to enhance problem-solving skills through knowledge of conflict management tools, practice problem solving in a multi-ethnic environment and improve multi-ethnic group cohesiveness and teamwork.

Commander Lt. Col. Mark E. McKnight welcomed participants and introduced Ambassador (Ret.) George Ward, a 30-year foreign-service veteran who is currently heading the USIP training program.

"It's rare to come to a situation where

people have focused themselves so clearly on solving problems as the people here have," Ward said, noting his Congressionally-funded but non-governmental organization "has run training programs on every continent except Australia and Antarctica: they haven't had too many problems in those places."

"We call ourselves a think-and-do tank," Ward said of his organization, which also trains relief workers in Africa and encourages international cooperation in the Pacific Rim and Central America. "In addition to researching and discussing things, we actually get to the field and try to accomplish them."

Bob Schoenhaus, a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and tax attorney currently employed as editor-in-chief of International Publications for Tax Analysts, next briefed participants on workshop procedures and objectives.

"Our hope is that at the end of four days we have given you some new ideas on conflict management," said Schoenhaus.

"Teamwork is exceptionally important in problem solving," he added. "As we know, buildings and landscapes don't cause problems. People cause problems, and people can solve problems."

The workshop, according to Capt. Sloan Mann, the event officer-in-charge, acknowl-

edges "the need for the community, as a multi-ethnic community, to begin the process of solving its own problems. We're giving them the tools. Now it's up to them to begin solving problems."

According to Mann, the workshop grew out of a long-standing partnership between the local Kosovo Force community and Gjiilan/Gnjilane civic organizations dedicated to multi-ethnic cooperation and problem solving.

Mann characterizes workshop participants as a multi-ethnic group working to solve problems confronting the municipality. Workshop participants include community leaders in such fields as agriculture, business, education, law and medicine.

"So far, it's going well," Mann said after the workshop's opening session. "All the equipment works," he added in reference to an elaborate audio communication system which allows workshop participants to hear translations into their native tongues of any words spoken from the floor through headphones. A battery of linguists and sound technicians armed with sound systems, microphones and cables facilitates the enterprise.

The workshop agenda includes small group discussions, practical and simulation exercises, working groups, reports and debriefings.

AAFES, Camp Bondsteel's Mayors Cell and MWR are hosting a Bazaar May 5-6 at the Camp Bondsteel Movie Theater. Local Serbian and Albanian vendors will be selling everything from carpet to jewelry. The theater will be open for business 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For more information, contact SSG Nattie at 781-5051 or Mrs. Trotter at 781-5095.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher Swartz

Broadcast and print journalists from all over Kosovo crowd around a podium during a recent weapon cache display that had been captured by Polish soldiers.



Elena Yontchera, a Bulgarian journalist, interviews a Polish soldier about the weapons caches they captured.

Media aids military operations

**Story by
Sgt. 1st Class Brian Thomas
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

The civilian media serves as a bridge between U.S. soldiers in Kosovo and a population back home often unaware of their presence here or mission. It's a story that would go untold without the media's presence and diligence.

Task Force Falcon soldiers in Rotation 2B have weathered almost 150 media visits since mid-December, finding themselves in the presence of more than 500 media members from around the globe.

Their words have been seen in print in every major newspaper in the United States, their faces on every major network news program. Their stories have been told to millions of people in the United States, their mission explained to a nation and world not always sure where Kosovo even is.

The presence of the civilian media may not always be met with the greatest of enthusiasm by soldiers, but its role in telling soldiers' stories, however, is invaluable.

"The stateside civilian media can give insight into the life of a soldier on a deployment, something few Americans are familiar with," said Ron Jensen, a writer and photographer for Stars and Stripes. "Public support on the home front is important for any

mission. To that end, it is important that the story be relayed to the people back home."

Jensen is in Kosovo on a 30-day rotation here, the time period Stars and Stripes reporters spend in Kosovo and Bosnia. He is based at RAF Mildenhall, England. A 12-year veteran at Stripes with 24 years in journalism, Jensen enjoys his role in Kosovo.

"To talk with troops and spend time with them while they are on a mission is a privilege and a joy," he said. "I'm always impressed with the professional way they do the job and accept the hardships of separation and lack of comforts enjoyed at home."

In addition to informing the outside world about the mission here, the media plays a key role in keeping soldiers here informed about their mission.

"It's our responsibility ... to tell the troops here where they fit in the big picture, which they sometimes can't see from their vantage point," Jensen said. "If I can give them a life - however, small - by writing about them or taking their photographs, then I'm willing to do it."



A camera man zooms in on a weapons display.



Drummer and vocalist Spc. John Murr pounds out a little rhythm during the USA Express performance April 5, at the Camp Monteith, Field House..



Sgt. Anterio Gamble, who plays keyboards and sings for USA Express, delivers a number while Spc. Tanzonia Flakes provides back-up vocals during the band's performance Thursday (April 5) night at the Camp Monteith, Kosovo, Field House.

USA Express rocks Camp Monteith

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Pintagro
Camp Monteith PAO*

Army show band, USA Express, left a Battle Dress Uniform-clad audience of Multinational Brigade (East) troops clamoring for more on the night of April 5, at the Camp Monteith Field House.

A small but enthusiastic crowd—that grew as the performance progressed—attended the two-hour show.

The band's six performers played a variety of hits ranging from Eric Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight" to Jennifer Lopez' "Love Don't Cost a Thing" and Sade's "Is it a Crime?" and "By Your Side," while its technician-in-chief orchestrated the sound and lighting scheme. Contemporary pop numbers dominated the sets. Occasional forays into R&B, gospel, and cross-over and classic country songs, added a burst of flavor.

Two keyboard players banged out lead and harmony parts, while a bassist and drummer kept rhythm. The keyboard players and drummer provided backup vocals and sang lead on a few numbers. The band's co-lead vocalists alternated main and backup parts when they did not collaborate on duets.

"It's a lot of fun," co-lead vocalist Sgt. Laura Bybee said of her tenure with the band. "You get your 15 minutes of fame, and you get to perform for the soldiers."

"The Army's my life," added the 28-year-old mother of two. "The Army's my career. But I do have a passion for singing. So it's great to get this opportunity and be able to go back to my unit." Bybee, a stock controller permanently assigned to the Hanau, Germany, based 127th Aviation Support Battalion, from the 1st Armor Division, enjoys singing "a little of everything: country, R&B, jazz, and 'old school'."

USA Express, an Army Entertainment Division production, provides live entertainment for soldiers by soldiers. Soldiers selected to participate serve 90-day temporary duty assignments. The TDY tours begin with lengthy rehearsal sessions at Fort Belvoir, Va. After mastering three sets of music, the band launches upon a whirlwind tour of military installations worldwide.

The current line-up of USA Express is slated to play 11 stateside and 22 European shows. After leaving Kosovo, the band will head west for an extensive tour of Germany before concluding the tour at a stateside location in late April.